

## CREATING CULTURALLY **VIBRANT** COMMUNITIES



### Greetings,

Here in Iowa, we're pulling together to tackle the challenges of this extraordinary year.

Leaders from nearly 50 communities – designated Iowa Great Places and Iowa Cultural & Entertainment Districts – convened online last week for our inaugural Iowa Creative Places Exchange to discuss how to use art, history and culture to make their cities and towns stronger and more inclusive.

All of the presentations, including a [message from Gov. Kim Reynolds](#) and a [keynote address from Jeremy Liu](#), an award-winning artist and community planner, offered inspiration to keep moving forward even – and especially – when times are tough.

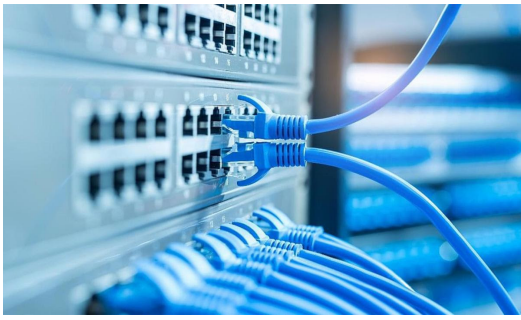
To help, we've rounded up several new grant opportunities, listed below, and more resources on a new-and-improved [emergency resources](#) page on our website.

As always, feel free to [contact our staff](#), who are ready and eager to help.

Take care,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris Kramer". The script is fluid and cursive.

Chris Kramer  
Director, Iowa Department of Cultural  
Affairs



New grants are available to expand broadband access to provide or improve internet service, especially in Iowa's rural areas. A total of \$5 million in funding is available from the latest series of grants from the Empower Rural Iowa initiative, bringing this year's statewide public and private investments in broadband infrastructure to nearly \$200 million. The application period opens Oct. 29 and continues through Nov. 22.

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*Clay County Fairgrounds*

County fairs across Iowa are eligible for grants up to \$75,000 to continue or resume operations during the Covid-19 pandemic. A total of \$6 million for the Iowa County Fairs Relief Program comes from federal CARES Act funds as an extension of the Small Business Relief Grant programs administered by the Iowa Economic Development Authority with help from the Association of Iowa Fairs. Deadline: Nov. 16.

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## Grants for Rural Revitalization



*The Yale gymnasium is on the National Register of Historic Places.*

Iowa is one of only eight states that recently received a federal grant to help rural communities revitalize historic properties and, in doing so, preserve local heritage and foster economic development. The State Historic Preservation Office has received \$600,000 to redistribute in historic

## Grants for Derecho Relief



*Workers repair a roof in Vinton. (The Gazette)*

Iowa museums, historic sites and other cultural organizations that have been affected by the derecho storm may be eligible for funding from the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs. Newly announced grants of up to \$5,000 are intended to support Iowa humanities organizations impacted by the August windstorm, including museums, historic

preservation grants, funded by a \$4.8 million grant from the National Park Service's Paul Bruhn Historic Revitalization Grants Program. Iowa's local governments and nonprofits that own properties on the National Register of Historic Places are eligible to apply for grants ranging from \$75,000 to \$125,000. Application guidelines will be posted soon.

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properties, preservation and historical organizations, and community and cultural organizations located in the 16 counties designated as disaster relief areas, according to criteria from the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

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## Three BIG Wins

Do you have good news to share? Let us know and we'll spread the word!

**The African American Museum of Iowa** in Cedar Rapids recently opened an exhibition called "[Unwavering: 21st Century Activism](#)." The display explores how social movements such as Black Lives Matter and #MeToo are entwined with the lives of African Americans throughout the country, with a special focus on events that have sparked activism here in Iowa.



**The Vesterheim**, the National Norwegian-American Museum and Heritage Center in Decorah, recently reopened to the public with limited capacity and extra safety protocols. Visitors can explore [exhibits](#) about immigration and folk arts, among others, or see a trove of artifacts in the [virtual galleries](#) on the museum's website.

**The Nodaway Valley Historical Museum's** successful Adopt-a-Grave program trains local students to preserve gravestones and, in the process, learn about history in Page County. Each year,

students fix up area cemeteries, research people who are buried there and even dress up like them to offer first-person tours to the public. (Read more on our [blog](#).)

